

SSUDAC Meeting Summary

June 19, 2014

Members Present: Brian Abramson, Ernest Bland, Dan Figueroa, Don Hague, Thomas Kaufman (United Therapeutics), Jon Lourie, Mel Tull, Suzy Zusy

Members Absent: Carmen Camacho

Call to Order and Introductions:

- Mr. Mel Tull, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

Reports:

Police Briefing & Crime Report

Lt. Alan Felsen, Montgomery County 3rd Police Precinct

- Robberies have increased over the past 2-3 weeks. Additional officers have been deployed to the area in response.
- Thefts of cars from parking lots, street spaces and garages have slightly increased.
- Vehicle break-ins continue to be an issue in garage and street parking areas.
- Bike Patrol staffing levels are up.
- An actor from the Roundhouse Theater was attacked by 4-5 individuals on Ellsworth Dr. Only 1 has been arrested so far.

Elizabeth Square

Christopher Donald, Housing Opportunities Commission, Bruce H. Lee, Lee Development Group, William Kominers, Lerch, Early & Brewer

- Mr. Donald gave an overview of the development plans for the Elizabeth Square area, including the existing Elizabeth and Alexander House apartment complexes.
- New financing to the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) enabled the project. The Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program is also being utilized for funding.
- The official optional method development filing will occur in July.
- KGD Architects, Lerch, Early & Brewer, Rodgers Consulting and Davis Construction are working to handle various aspects of the development.
- The project will be a mixed use development focused on healthy living & wellness, particularly for seniors.

- Fenwick Ave., Second Ave. and Apple Ave. are the streets bordering the development.
- Elizabeth House is a senior/low income housing building, while Alexander House is a mixed income housing facility.
- Phase 1 of development will not require any temporary relocation of residents. A total of 236 units will be added.
- Phase 2 will be a mixed income community, with the HOC determining the specific breakdown of income percentages.
- Amenities for Phase 1 include an indoor pool, fitness center, wellness center, a bistro kitchen and a “flex room.”
- Phase 2 amenities will be a café, resource center, and live/work artist studios.
- The official site plan will be filed and hopefully approved in the fall of 2014.
- Final plans for construction staging have not been determined; there may potentially be some staging on the site itself.
- Health & wellness features include senior workouts, a partnership with Holy Cross for diabetes education, as well as a bike path and 3 walking circuits.
- Other features include a rooftop gardens, a water feature and butterfly & hummingbird gardens in the plaza. Parking lots will be integrated at the end of development.
- Mr. Ernest Bland motioned for the committee to write a letter of support for the project, with Dan Figueroa seconding. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Branson

Councilmember Cherri Branson, Montgomery County Council

- Ms. Cherri Branson, interim District 5 County Council member, discussed several issues of interest to the committee.
- An overall theme of the discussion was the changing demographics of the area, particularly in regards to the White Oak area. The committee discussed traffic issues in the area as well, particularly along the Route 29 corridor, as well as the proposed Bus Rapid Transit project.

- Committee members asked about the status of the Silver Spring Transit Center. Ms. Branson replied that to her knowledge, the Transit Center was scheduled to be turned over to WMATA in December of 2014.
- The County Council is discussing updates to the area zoning Master Plan.
- Ms. Suzy Zusy asked about job development potential in the White Oak area. Ms. Branson responded that the area will be zoned as a life science center, and that combined with the move of Washington Adventist Hospital to the area would create more jobs.

Silver Spring Regional Area Director's Report

Mr. Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, Silver Spring Regional Center

- The July Advisory Committee meeting will be a special pedestrian safety meeting with Jeff Dunkel of the County's Department of Transportation as well as staff members from the State Highway Administration. The meeting will take place at the Civic Building.
- Mr. Rodriguez is working with the Boards, Committees and Commissions staff to fill the vacant resident and small business Advisory Committee slots.
- Work is being done to hire a contract staff person to handle Procurement issues for the Silver Spring Urban District.
- The Purple Line Implementation Advisory Group has been meeting every two weeks. Mr. Rodriguez also noted that the state will be putting out Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the line soon. Construction will begin once the concessionaire has been chosen.
- The committee had a lengthy discussion about the quality of past headliners of the Jazz Festival, and unanimously voted to write a letter advising the County Executive about the issue.
- The committee voted unanimously to appoint Don Hague as committee chair and Dan Figueroa as vice chair beginning with the September 2014 committee meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.